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Churches Help in Madagascar, Tibet Emergencies

(Geneva) - Aid totalling \$34,600 has been given by the churches for disaster victims in Madagascar and Tibet in answer to an appeal issued on April 2 by the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches.

Five cyclones in two months have left 50,000 persons homeless in Madagascar. In addition, there has been vast destruction of crops and cattle, creating a long term emergency.

In appealing to the Division for help, the Christian Council of Madagascar reported that local Protestant and Catholic churches "are doing very great service in the way of immediate relief with the limited resources available".

The Division of Inter-Church Aid is working on the Madagascar disaster in consultation with the Lutheran World Federation's Department of World Service. It is understood that the Norwegian Mission has voted 25,000 Kroners (\$3,500) and is arranging a nation-wide church collection.

An appeal has been issued for Madagascar by the French churches through the national press and to the congregations.

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Spokesmen pointed out that in the case of Tibet, the "magnitude of this tragedy has not yet fully come to light". But reports to date claim that at least 18,000 refugees have fled into India and Nepal. A committee, led by one of the brothers of the Dalai Lama, has been set up among the refugees and the Relief Committee of the National Christian Council of India is cooperating in all possible ways.

Dr. Ulrich van Beyma, Division Secretary for Asia, now travelling in India, has been directed to visit the refugee area and report on the situation.

The WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid has advanced \$3,000 to help in each of the emergencies. Church World Service in the United States has allocated \$10,000 for Madagascar and another \$10,000 for Tibet and has diverted food supplies to Tibet. Immediate responses to the WCC appeals included \$5,600 from the British Council of Churches, \$2,000 from the Swedish Inter-Church Aid Committee, \$1,200 from Germany, \$2,800 from New Zealand, and \$3,000 from the Netherlands.
EPS, Geneva

Christians in Ceylon Barred from Top Police Position

(Colombo) - It is impossible for a Christian to become the Inspector General of Police in Ceylon, according to a statement by the nation's Premier, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, published in the Ceylon "Times" in Colombo.

Five deputy inspectors general, all Christians, were passed over in naming a successor to Osmund de Silva, whose resignation becomes effective in July. A Buddhist, M.W.F. Abeykoon, was selected for the post.

According to the "Times" story, when Senior Deputy Inspector General C.C.C. Dissanayake asked if, after 28 years of police service, he was not being promoted because he was a Christian, Premier Bandaranaike replied, "That is so." Later it was announced that Mr. Dissanayake had resigned in protest.

Premier Bandaranaike is reported to have told all the deputies that only a Buddhist could be appointed to the post.
EPS, Geneva

US National Council President Asks for Prayers for Tibet

(New York) - The president of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA has asked for prayers for the persecuted people of Tibet. In a message released last week in New York, Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg said the council views "with profound sorrow the tragedy of the Tibetan people assaulted by Communists violently seeking to regiment a peaceful population".

He described the Chinese action in Tibet as "a betrayal of their agreement to respect the domestic autonomy" of that nation and as "a cruel violation of international standards of religious liberty and human rights. Continuation of such violence will bring increasing condemnation by world opinion".

Dr. Dahlberg asked US Protestants and Orthodox to increase the "compassionate ministries of our churches" to aid Tibetan refugees. He also urged prayers for all people of all faiths "who suffer under tyranny anywhere in the world. Let us pray for more humaneness, the rule of law and the reign of good will among men."
EPS, Geneva

Church of Scotland Committee Critical on Central Africa

(Edinburgh) - A committee on Central Africa set up by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has recommended review of the present structure of the Central African Federation.

The committee's report says that the conference planned for 1960 to decide on the future of the federation should consider re-shaping the structure of the territory to meet criticism from Africans that voting and other rights favour European immigrant populations rather than the indigenous Africans.

Suggestions for the granting of dominion status to the federation within the Commonwealth are described by the report as "premature and dangerous" unless the majority of the population supports such a move.

The report was compiled and printed before the present disturbances in Southern Rhodesia, but a foreword to the document recommends immediate establishment of a judicial commission of inquiry on the Central African Federation. (See also EPS, page 7) EPS, Geneva

Archbishop Iakovos Enthroned in New York

(New York) - More than 3,000 worshippers saw Archbishop Iakovos (James) installed as the new primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America. The colourful ceremony was held on April 1 in the Hellenic Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York.

In his message, delivered in Greek, the new Archbishop said he could "see as from a watchtower the immensity of our mission". The Archbishop has jurisdiction over Orthodox in Canada, the United States, Latin America, the West Indies, Japan, Korea and the Philippines. He succeeds the Archbishop Michael.

As Metropolitan James of Melita he had served for four years as representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople to the World Council of Churches. After his enthronement, he announced that he wished to be known as Archbishop Iakovos.

Bishop Germanos Polizoides of the Southern Diocese officiated at the enthronement ceremonies. The other five Greek Orthodox bishops of the United States, assisted by priests and deacons, also participated. The primates of various Eastern Orthodox churches attended, along with representatives of other denominations, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, the World Council of Churches and governments. The WCC was represented by one of its presidents, Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill and by Dr. Roswell Barnes, its executive secretary in the United States. EPS, Geneva

German Missions Expert Predicts "Missionary Race"

(Wurzburg, Germany) - A well-known West German professor of missions has said the modern world is turning toward religion and that Christianity must recognise its opportunity.

In a speech made at Wurzburg, Professor Georg Vicedom of Neuendettelsau told his audience that people are becoming more religious and are dissatisfied with modern material security. The professor said reports from Communist countries showed a trend toward return to the churches and that the same tendency was visible

in the USA, where pragmatic materialism had passed its peak. In South America, he declared, Protestant churches are gaining for the same reason. Since 1916 Protestants in the South American continent have increased from 122,000 to six million. The annual baptism of 200,000 Africans points, according to Dr. Vicedom to a massive turning toward Christianity in Africa.

Maintaining that "mankind has been aroused and is seeking a solution to all the unanswered questions that present themselves", the professor observed that current revivals in Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam are also explained by the phenomenon. He said that Christianity was involved in a race with these religions and that Christians might lose if they did not recognise their new missionary task.

In citing the presence of 15,000 coloured students, 10,000 of them practising Christians, in West Germany, Dr. Vicedom said that treatment given to them was often irreconcilable with the Christian faith. He gave the example of a young Indian who had met objectionable prejudice in looking for lodgings in Hamburg. "How long can we Christians tolerate that these young people should return to their home countries as counter-missionaries?", Dr. Vicedom asked. EPS, Geneva

United Church Draws up Statement of Faith

(New York) - A proposed statement of faith for the United Church of Christ has been issued in New York and termed a major step in strengthening the spiritual union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. It will be presented to the second General Synod of the United Church when it meets on July 5 - 9 in Oberlin, Ohio. The United Church was formed in 1957 and was the first merger in the United States to unite two denominations of differing theological backgrounds and with different forms of church government.

The presentation of the proposed statement of faith to the General Synod will emphasize that the new creed is "a testimony and not a test" of faith. No member church of the United Church will be required to adopt the statement. Instead, church officials point out, the statement is intended to express the faith of a twentieth century Christian but at the same time, there is no feeling that it is a final formulation of Christian belief.

The Rev. Elmer J.F. Arndt, professor of historical theology and ethics at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri, was chairman of the 28-member commission. Vice-chairman was Dean Douglas Horton of the Harvard University Divinity School.

The text of the statement is on page 9.

EPS, Geneva

Saxony Church Shows Signs of Strain

(Berlin) - Reports presented by Bishop Johannes Jänicke to the synod of the Province of Saxony show increasing pressure on available church staff and resources in this large Protestant area of the East German Republic.

In spite of good church attendance and an increase in the number of communicants, the statistics for theological students, pastors and catechists show a sharp decline.

According to the reports only 1,093 pastorates are manned out of a total of 1,740 and vacancies are increasing. Numbers attending confirmation instruction

under 700 full-time and 700 part-time catechists, have dropped by half to 125,000 since 1952. Twenty-five available places for new theological students at Halle University were filled this year with difficulty.

Although the church and its Inner Mission organization have kept on an even financial keel, the state of church buildings is causing anxiety. Fifty church buildings will have to be closed unless methods of repairing them can be found.
EPS, Geneva

Grotewohl Says Church Threatens Religious Liberty

(Berlin) - In a speech made in East Berlin, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl of the East German Republic has accused "certain church leaders" of intolerance and disloyalty.

Addressing a "cultural affairs" group, he protested to them against the churches' attempt to "monopolise" marriage and name-giving ceremonies and "to organise a sort of "Kulturkampf" (cultural conflict).

President Grotewohl said that "these church leaders act as if the liberty of faith and conscience guaranteed to all citizens by our constitution applied only to the Church". He went on to say that "liberty of faith and conscience means that every citizen can decide for himself how he wishes to celebrate his marriage or the naming of his children, and whether his children are to attend the youth dedication, confirmation or both".

The Communist leader declared that "any attempt made by church leaders to obtain a monopoly is a form of pressure on people's conscience and creates artificial tensions. We cannot tolerate attempts of this kind to mutilate our constitution and place restrictions on the democratic right of our citizens", he said.
EPS, Geneva

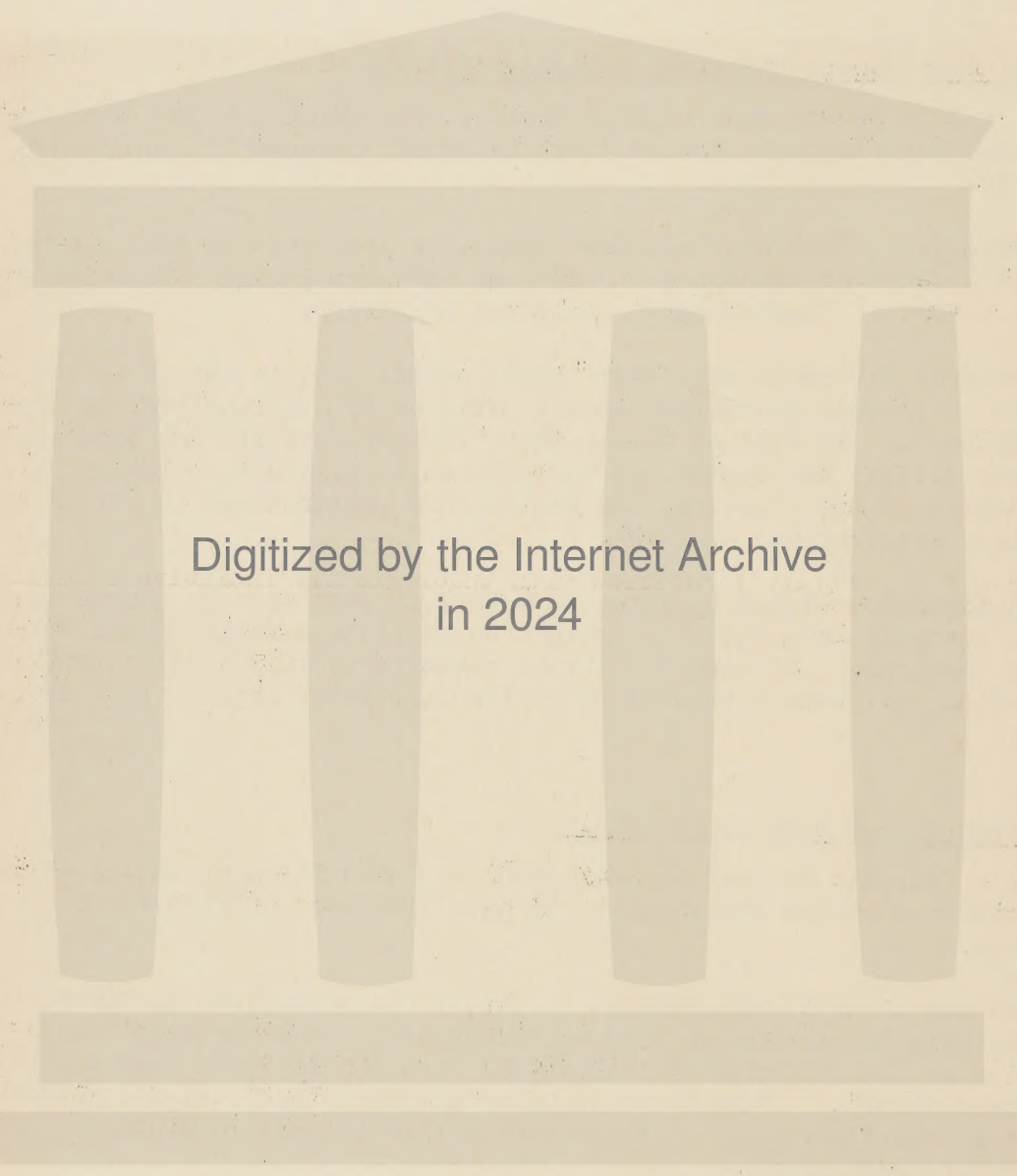
East German Church Uses Modern Media

(Berlin) - Churches in East Germany (DDR) are offsetting obstacles created by restrictions on the church press by developing use of filmstrips and sound recordings.

Film use is difficult because of import and production barriers, but a film of the Leipzig Kirchentag of 1954 is widely used, together with a full-length production on the churches' institutional care of the deaf, dumb and blind called "Hands that Speak". Permission to show "Martin Luther" and the productions of the West German films made by the Matthias Film Society in Stuttgart has been denied by the government.

Filmstrips and colour slides on the ecumenical movement, the younger churches, church social work, church reconstruction, the history of missions, Bible stories and Christian art are widely circulated in the parishes.

Tape recordings are being used, in spite of the lack of equipment and its high cost. Members of youth groups take recorded Sunday services to old and isolated people in their homes. Lectures and plays are also re-played on tape.
EPS, Geneva



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In Brief

Mr. Guy Clutton-Brock, imprisoned staff worker from the Anglican St. Faith's inter-racial farm project in Southern Rhodesia, has been released with about fifty Africans held in prison (see EPS Nos. 12 & 13). A Preventive Detention Bill has been withdrawn, following strong criticism, and will be replaced by a new measure designed to retain the right of detention, but with legal safeguards.

* *

The annual Christmas appeal of the British Council of Churches' Department of Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service has reached a record total of over £80,000 (\$224,000), double the sum raised in the previous year.

* *

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church in America and chairman of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, is convalescing for a month at his home in New Rochelle, New York, following treatment in hospital for a kidney ailment. He has cancelled his April engagements, including a scheduled trip to Buenos Aires to attend the Latin American Conference of the Lutheran World Federation, which he also heads.

* *

The editor of "Christianity Today", a conservative Protestant magazine, has said the Evangelical movement in the United States has "lost too much of the passion for Christian unity". Dr. Carl F.H. Henry said that the cause of Christian unity "is publicly identified with theologically inclusive ecumenism more than with doctrinally exclusive Evangelicalism". Speaking to a ministers' seminar, Dr. Henry said that in spite of their criticism of the movement, "the fragmented Evangelical churches lag in stating a compelling theology of their visible unity".

* *

A group of 15,000 persons, representing nearly all political and religious groups in the United Kingdom, held a demonstration in London's Trafalgar Square demanding unilateral disarmament. The rally was the climax of a 53-mile march from Aldermaston, site of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment.

* *

The recently enthroned Anglican Bishop of Bristol, England, the Right Rev. Oliver Tomkins, has announced that he will not be available to open church bazaars in his diocese. In his "Diocesan Gazette" he says the traditional practice "does not carry with it fruits of personal contact and pastoral intimacy which make it worth the price".

* *

A Madagascar pastor, the Rev. David Rasolofosaona, has been named as the first African staff member at the Lutheran World Federation headquarters. He succeeds an Indian, the Rev. Christopher Polson, who has just completed a one year term as the first staff member from the younger churches to work in the LWF Department of World Mission.

* *

Members of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in the South African province of the Transvaal contributed £280,043 (\$784,120) for missionary work among non-whites last year, an increase of more than £60,000 over the previous year's contributions.

* *

The Greek Supreme Court has ruled that Jehovah's Witnesses are a "well-known faith and therefore protected by the Greek constitution". The decision followed a query from the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church on whether the Witnesses were entitled to constitutional protection.

* *

Dr. Albert Schweitzer has been named by the Sonning Foundation in Copenhagen, Denmark, to receive the 100,000-kroner (\$14,300) Sonning Prize. The 84-year-old missionary has agreed to accept the award when he visits Europe next autumn. Established with funds bequeathed by the late C.J. Sonning, a Danish editor, the Sonning Prize is made for outstanding contributions to European culture.

EPS, Geneva

A Special Report

Wave of Christian Protest Over Nyasaland

(Geneva) - Christian voices in several countries have strongly opposed the inclusion of Nyasaland within the Central African Federation unless it is supported by a substantial majority of the population, including Africans.

The British territory, with a population of two-and-a-half million Africans and five thousand white settlers, was a voluntary Protectorate under the British Colonial Office until 1953, when it was included, with the Rhodesias, in the Central African Federation. Many administrators at that time said that Federation was designed to ensure economic advancement and the maximum welfare of all sections of the population.

Rumblings against "increasing domination" by the white majority came to a head on March 1 of this year, when rioting broke out in many areas. The acts of violence, aimed in some cases against mission properties of the Church of Scotland, were attributed to violent "direct action" groups within the African National Congress. The situation was viewed with alarm by the Presbyterian Church of Central Africa, the largest Protestant church in Nyasaland, with a membership of 150,000 and a total community of nearly half a million. The church, following in the steps of David Livingstone, has been largely responsible for pioneering the educational system of the territory and finds itself, according to the Press Bureau of the Church of Scotland, "under fire from two sides".

According to the Press Bureau report, "the Nyasaland government suspects it because it has spoken out against European domination and Federation, and because it and most of its members sympathise with the Nationalist aspiration of the Congress. The extremist nationalists also suspect it because it is opposed to violence."

The problem of the Church is increased by the fact that Dr. Hastings Banda, a Presbyterian, who is local leader of Congress, has been arrested following the March riots on suspicion of having been directly implicated in an alleged plot to massacre large sections of the European population.

"Ilico", well-known columnist in London's interdenominational "British Weekly", comments: "Dr. Banda is said to be a loyal Presbyterian, and those who know him personally are, I understand, convinced that his opposition to violence is completely honest and uncompromising." Ilico goes on to call Dr. Banda "the one man who can save his people from becoming involved in the sort of miseries and disasters which have come on Cyprus" and says he is also the one

man with whom the whites must negotiate.

From the Scottish Committee of the Church of Christ comes a statement drawn up by a former Nyasaland missionary with 26 years' service in the country. Among petitions to the British government in the document is a request "to make a clear statement on their interpretation of the Preamble to the Central African Federal Constitution, which states that Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland will continue under the special protection of Her Majesty's Government 'to enjoy separate governments for as long as their respective peoples so desire'." The statement also asks for a British commission of inquiry "to investigate the background of the present disturbance". The commission has since been granted.

An outspoken Asian comment appears in the Ceylon "Christian News Bulletin", which emphasizes that it does not, however, speak for Ceylon's National Christian Council.

"The African Congress in Nyasaland has practically a hundred per cent support in its resistance to the growing domination of the white settler", the Bulletin affirms, "which means that its president, Dr. Hastings Banda, has achieved the feat of uniting the conservative chiefs and the more revolutionary elements among the younger intellectuals."

Referring to the attitude of Sir Roy Welensky, Prime Minister of the Central African Federation, the Ceylon publication adds: "It seems incredible that a man in his position should think and talk like Colonel Blimp in 1910, as though there had never been an Ireland, or an India, or an Indonesia, or a Viet Nam or a Cyprus, and as though the rising tide of African anger could be assuaged by banning Congress, imprisoning Dr. Banda and expelling British MPs who start asking awkward questions."

The protests in Nyasaland and abroad parallel other critical reactions by church leaders in Central Africa following proposals for restrictive legislation in Southern Rhodesia. They have been widely publicised in the British press because of church and missionary alignment with moderate African opinion in the Federation, and Nyasaland in particular. (See also EPS, page 3) EPS, Geneva

Document

Statement of Faith from United Church of Christ, USA

(Following is the text of a statement of faith, drawn up by the United Church of Christ. The church was formed in 1957 by the merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. See story on page 4)

* * *

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, to whose deeds we gladly testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in His own image
and sets before him the ways of life and death.
He seeks in holy love to save His people from aimlessness and sin.
He judges men and nations by His righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,
He has come to us, shared our common lot, conquered sin and death,
and reconciled the world to Himself.
He bestows upon us His Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the Church
of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues and races.
He calls us into His Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be His servants in the service of men,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His table,
to join Him in His passion and victory.
He promises, to all who trust Him, forgiveness of sins and fullness
of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
His presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in His kingdom which has no end.
Blessing and honor,
glory and power be unto Him. Amen.

PeriodicalsInternational Review of Missions

The April issue of the 'International Review of Missions' presents aspects of missionary theory and practice. Derek W. Allen of Oxford writes on "Christ's Teaching About Missions"; Bishop Lesslie Newbigin, chairman of the International Missionary Council, outlines "The Summons to Christian Mission Today"; Dr. A. Capell of Australia examines ways of "Interpreting Christianity to Australian Aborigines"; Loren E. Noren of Hong Kong tells the story of the founding of Chung Chi College in that city. Dr. E.W. Wilder analyses "The Pattern of Christian Medical Work in Changing India"; James E. McEldowney discusses "An Emerging Church Music in India"; and John R. Piet of Vellore describes an experiment in Bible correspondence evangelism. There are also articles by the Rev. Jim Sutton of Malaya on "Christian Literature Work in Malaya and Singapore" and by the Rev. Shusui Terada on rural evangelism in Japan. Book reviews and a bibliography for the past quarter complete the issue.

The Ecumenical Review

The April issue of the World Council of Churches' quarterly contains articles by the Bishop of Chelmsford - Lambeth and Church Unity; Keith R. Bridston - The Future of Faith and Order; Canon E.R. Wickham - The Encounter of the Christian Faith and Modern Technological Society; Paul David Devanandan - Caste, the Christian and the Nation in India Today; Hans J. Iwand - The Ecumenical Contribution of the Churches in Eastern Europe; Vasil T. Istavridis - The Work of Archbishop Germanos Strenopoulos; and K. Philippos - The Malabar Church of South India. The "Ecumenical Chronicle" includes a statement of the WCC Executive on Cessation of Atomic Tests, a report from a conference on Rapid Social Change in Rhodesia, South Indian comment on the WCC's statement about the Church, the Churches and the WCC, made in 1950 at Toronto, Canada, rulings of the Italian Constitutional Court on Religious Liberty, a document from the Conference of European Churches on What Western Churches can Learn from Eastern Churches and resolutions of the WCC's Executive on World Refugee Year. Book reviews include works dealing with the Church, Protestant - Roman Catholic encounter and race relations.

EPS, Geneva

